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Christ's Greatest Challenge

Wyatt Sawyer

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HARDING
UNIVERSITY

10-23-76

CHRIST'S GREATEST CHALLENGE

Matt.

INT: Story: Approach of rich young man to Jesus. 19:16-
 Mk. 10:17. → KNEELING! v. 21. Jesus loved him. 26.
 Runn. Lk. 18:23. Very sorrowful. Very rich. Ruler. v.18

I. YOUNG RULER'S QUESTION: "What good THING?" Act,
 deed, ceremony, rite or favor I DO?

- A. He pre-supposed FOUR imp. things:
 (did!) 1. Jesus HAD the secret to Eter. Life. J.14:6.
 2. Jesus DOER of good things. Was! Acts 10:48.
 3. Jesus would give HIM the one-easy step to
 eternal life. OR (couldn't) Not one.
 4. Jesus would ADMIT, before all, that HE, tho
 being rich, was also VERY RIGHTEOUS. (didn't)

CONCLUSION: Asked Jesus to look at his
 credit-balance and crown him safe & sound!

II. THE SAVIOR'S REPLY. Vs. 17-19.

1. Keep the commandments. RULER: "Which?"
 - a. Don't take another's wife. Adultery!
 - b. Don't take another's life. Murder!!
 - c. Don't take another's property. Stealing!
 - d. Don't take another's influence. False Wi
 - e. Don't neglect your old parents. Honor.
 - f. Love your neighbors as yourself!!!

CONCLUSION: Live perfectly the LAW under
 which you live!!! RULER: "Have! What else?"

III. THE BOMB-SHELL ANSWER!!! "THE WHOLE THING..ALL!" v.21.

- A. First: You HAVE NOT loved your NEIGHBOR AS
 yourself!!! You Rich, rich, rich. They, poor!!!
- B. Second: You ASKED for "COMPLETE GOODNESS" and
 you DO NOT have it!!! Not a complete life!!!
- C. Third: There are SIX things you haven't consid
 ered.
 1. You asked to be absolutely and
 consummately GOOD, like God! The best!!!
 2. You are NOT as perfect in life as you think
 3. You have SINNED passively. You have not
 given ALL, BEST! God gave His BEST!!!
 4. You love EARTH more than you do HEAVEN!!!
 5. You love SOMETHING MORE than you do God!
 6. You ARE NOT willing to obey God at ALL
COST!!! Vs. Lk. 18:22. Sell ALL! Give all!
 Matt. 22:37. Not willing to GIVE, TAKE &
FOLLOW!!! *Mk. 10:21. OR I JOHN 2:15-17.*

MT 10-24-76 AM C

IV. WHAT DOES THIS EPISODE SAY TO ME? Application!!!

A. Don't be deceived by your apparent goodness.
I Cor. 10:12. Haven't come fully to grips with
life's temptations and challenges..YET!!

Ill. H. S. quarterback. H. S. cheer-leader.
(Sunset) PCs!! Committed fornication '!!!
Blew his college career! "Come home,
daddy!!!" He did. (1964). He unfaithful
to her. She to him. Soon divorced! He
married twice more. She three!! Ruined rotten!

QUESTION: "Preacher, what good thing can I do
to inherit eternal life?" ANSWER: "THE WHOLE
THING!!!" Cannot scripturally remarry, but
give the REST of your life in cross-bearing
and following Jesus". He went away sorrowful
because He had too great EARTHLY desires. LOST

B. RE-examine your system of Values & Conduct.

I Cor. 15:33. I Thess. 5:21, 22.* Vs. 23!

MATT. 6:33. THE WHOLE THING--FIRST!!!!

Ill. Christian girl chosen Queen of the Ball
at a Beaumont H. S. Chosen overwhelmingly by
the student-body! Accepted too hastily.
Studied it out with her Christian mother.
Monday before the Friday Ball, addressed the
student body in assembly. Said: "I have done
a dreadful thing! I have accepted your wish
for me to reign as the Queen of the Ball, but
as a Christian, I could not attend the DANCE.
I would have to leave after the CARNATION.
That would not be fair, so I hereby relinquish
my crown." Response? A standing ovation and
thunderous applause for several minutes. School
ruled out the DANCE 2 yrs. later in favor of
an Annual carnival--something for ALL!!!

INV: CLOSE WITH FOUR QUESTIONS TO CHALLENGE YOUR HEART

1. If asked to GIVE ALL, as the Rich Ruler, would
YOU have done it? Are you a CHRISTIAN now?

Willing & ready to GIVE your all!!!!

Mk. 16:16.

2. You feel like scolding This Young Man??
You any better?? Whole life is a LIGHT for
Jesus? THE WHOLE THING!!! If not, Acts 8:22.

3. You care about OTHERS? He didn't! Then you
will PRESERVE the highest influence possible
ARE YOU???

4. Willing to respond to His call TODAY? No DELAY